

THOR



"If this is the kind of storytelling we might come to expect from this creative team, Mjolnir couldn't be in worthier hands." – Newsarama

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THE DEVOURER KING

MARVEL

OC
19

THOR

The Devourer King





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The Devourer King

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1



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19'

PART ONE "The Black Winter"

FAR BEYOND THE
FIELDS WE KNOW...

And lo, in the
darkness...

...there was
thunder.

And racing behind it,
the roaring voice of
a god made king.

"Hear me," his
testament
begins...

"The old
king..."

"The old king
is gone."



His words soar
across the heavens
of Vanaheim.

For the Vanir, the
sisters of Asgard,
it is a humming
sound of peace.



And here too, in the skies of
Alfheim, a rumbling decree of
a war well fought.

The Light Elves cheer
and weep that darkness
may never touch their
bright shores again.



In the dark fields
of Nidavellir...

...the Dwarves sing
and drink as Mjolnir
the smasher rumbles
for them as well.



And in Jotunheim, the
Frost Giants feel,
for the first time
in a long time...

...a biting chill
run down their
backs.



The message is the
same for all to hear.

Even in the hottest pit of
damnation, in Muspelheim,
the demons hear it over
the wail of eternal flames...

"We have, all of us,
warred enough for a
thousand lifetimes,"
the hammer speaks.

Its voice resounds
across Svartalfheim.

Across the beaten
ears of wound-
licking Dark Elves.

"Enough blood has been
spilled in the Ten Realms.
Enough death.

"From the rose-
scented rainstorms
of Heaven...

"...to the deepest
hollows of Niffleheim.

"It ends now. It
ends forever.

"It ends
with me.

"So hear this, realms of
the world ash...for I shall
say it only once.

"Let there
be peace...

"...or let there
be thunder."

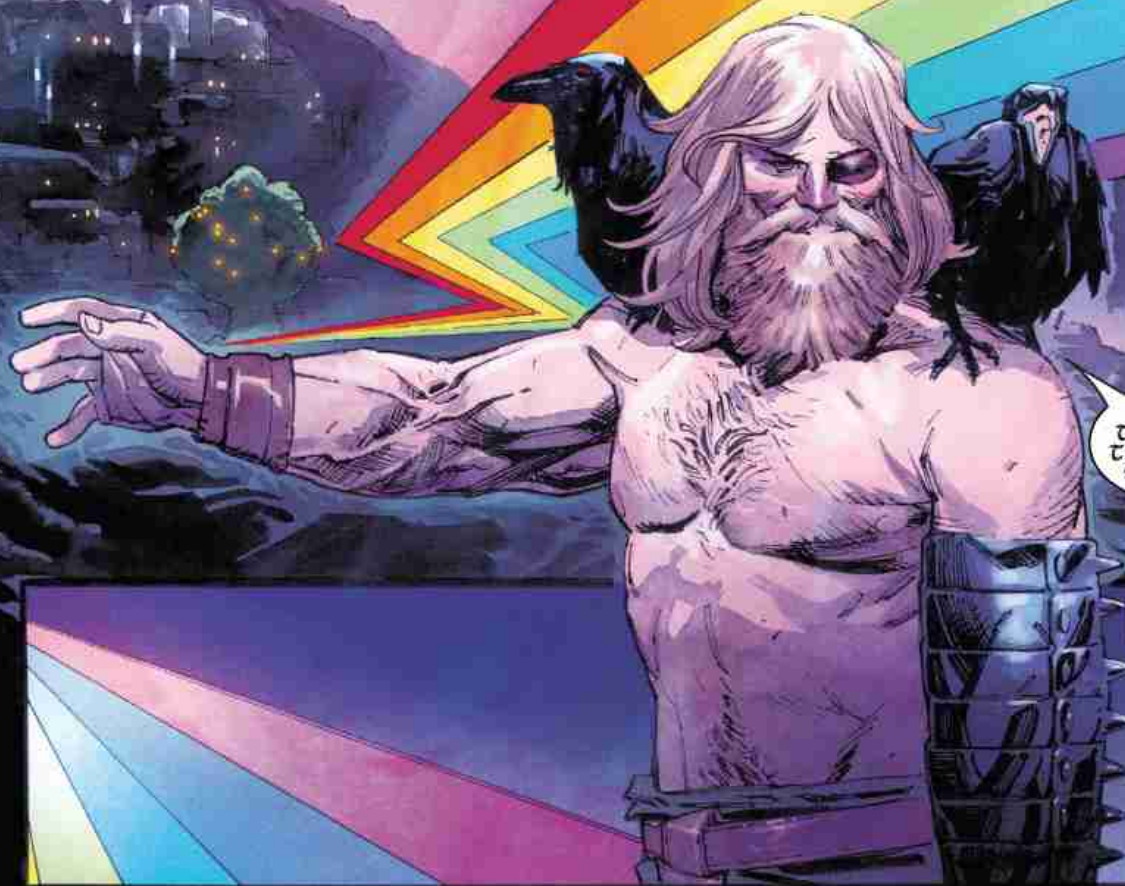




ASGARD.
THE CITY IN
THE SKY.

HOME OF
THE GODS.

KINGDOM
OF THOR.



DIDST
THOU SEE
THAT, LADY
SIF? EH?

YES,
THOR. I SEE
EVERYTHING.

ALL TEN
REALMS. ONE
THROW. ODIN
HIMSELF COULD
NOT MAKE
THAT--

YES, THOR.
IT WAS A VERY
GOOD SHOT.



AYE.

THAT
IT WAS.

IS THERE
ANYTHING ELSE
IN THE REALMS THAT
REQUIRES THOR'S
ATTENTION?

MAYHAP A
FROST GIANT IN
NEED OF A SMITING?
IT FEELS AGES
SINCE I HAVE
SMOTE A--

KRA

THUD

MY
LORD.



THE BIFROST
IS NOW UNDER MY
PROTECTION, AND
I'M AFRAID YOUR
SMITING DAYS
ARE OVER.

I HAVE
MY JOB, THOR.
QUIT HIDING FROM
YOURS...

GO. BE
KING.



...

AYE.



KING.

NICE SHOT!
ENJOY YOUR
RETIREMENT.



TRY NOT
TO BE SO
DOUR ABOUT
IT, MY
LIEGE.

BECOMING
THE KING OF
ASGARD IS, AFTER
ALL, WHAT YOU HAVE
WANTED SINCE
YOU WERE A
CHILD.

AYE...
AND NOW I
HAVE IT...



...BUT
WHAT IS A
KING...

...TO A
GOD?



It has been many months since the War of the Realms ravaged Asgard.

And many more since Thor has rebuilt his home in his image.

No longer the shimmering, golden palace of his father before him, the seat of the king has been remade in wood. And stone.

Grown by Yggdrasil, the World Tree.

And shaped by hammers.

Above his throne, the Nordic rune of **Thurisaz**.

A symbol of the great thorn protruding from the tree of life.

Symbolizing both defense and destruction.

It is his charge.

It is his name.

LEAVE ME.

IF I MAY, MY LORD.

BEFORE YOU ARE TO ADDRESS ASGARD, THERE ARE MANY DUTIES THAT REQUIRE YOUR ATTENTION. THE FEASTS, AND THE NUMBER OF CASKS OF ALE I AM TO COMMISSION FOR ONE, IS OF DIRE...



RIGHT.



WELL, YOU HEARD THE KING!

WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING CARRYING ABOUT, THEN?

OUT WITH YOU LOT!

BUT OF THE ALE?

ERR ON THE SIDE OF TOO MUCH.



my king.



~SIGH~



50...





...HOW DOES IT FEEL TO SIT ON FATHER'S THRONE?



I WOULDN'T KNOW, BROTHER.

I'VE ONLY EVER SAT ON MINE.



HA. NERVOUS THEN, ARE WE? FOR YOUR BIG SPEECH?

AFTER ALL, ALL OF ASGARD IS GATHERED TO HEAR THE GREAT GOLDEN BIRD SPEAK... AND YOU ALWAYS DID GET GRUMPY WHEN YOU HAD TO ACT ROYAL...

I AM NOT NEW TO THE THING, LOKI. I HAVE SPOKEN TO MANY IN THE PAST.



OH YES, YOU'VE TOLD ARMIES TO KILL AND THAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO KILL THEM AND THEN DONE SO. BUT THIS IS RATHER DIFFERENT, YES?

YOU'RE MEANT TO INSPIRE THEM. MEANT TO--

TELL ME, KING LOKI, LORD OF THE FROST GIANTS...



...IS IT NO LONGER CUSTOMARY TO BOW WHEN VISITING A FOREIGN KING?





LEAVE
ME, LOKI.

AND
SHOULD YOU
--UNF--ENTER
MY KINGDOM
UNBIDDEN
AGAIN...



...I'LL HAVE
MY RAVENS RIP
YOUR EYES FROM
YOUR LYING
SKULL.



IS IT
GETTING
HEAVIER,
THEN?



MJOLNIR.

I DON'T
RECALL YOU
EVER...GRUNTING
WHEN YOU USED
TO PICK IT
UP...





AGH!



NO,
PLEASE--



--DON'T?



HOW...ARE
YOU DOING
THIS?

I'M THE
ALL-FATHER
NOW, LITTLE
BROTHER.

CLOTHED IN
THE POWER THAT
COMES WITH THE
TITLE.



YOU'D
DO WELL TO
REMEMBER
THAT.

Loki is often wrong about a great many things. But this day, he is right about two.

The first is that the new god-king of Asgard has, of late, felt the weight of mighty Mjolnir growing.

He does not yet know why. But, in time, he will. And he will wish he hadn't.

And the second...

...is that Thor is indeed rather nervous to give this speech to the gathered masses of the golden city.

In his most private hours, the thunder god has practiced this speech aloud to an audience of his reflection and a hammer.

And as the temperature drops in his kingdom, as he feels his own breath and witnesses the first falling snow, not of his making...

...he realizes...

...that he will never speak a word of it.

ODIN'S BEARD...





Horror reigns in the streets of Asgard as the frostbitten devourer falls.

A rumbling blackness fills the golden canyons as his yawning machine armor thaws.



And then...the thing that comes after it.

GALACTUS!

you...

...DARE?!







Since the devourer fell,
the mourning rain of
Asgard has been
pouring for weeks.

The lightning
furious and
incessant.

The thunder
deafening.



The city officials
busy themselves
by counting the
dead.

Calculating
the cost.

Trying to ignore
the silence of
their king.



Volstagg the Voluminous,
trusted ally and onetime
War Thor, passes his time
with a spreading weight in
his already prodigious gut.



For, in the weeks
since Galactus
brought frozen
death to Asgard...



...Yggdrasil, the
world ash, the
tree of life...



...has begun
to die.

And then there
is Thor.

MY RAVENS
HAVE SCoured
THE GALAXIES
TO FIND YOU AND
BRING YOU
ALL HERE.

I THANK
YOU FOR
ANSWERING
MY CALL.

now...

And the gathering
of the Heralds
of Galactus.

...WHAT IN
THE DAMNED
HEL IS A STAR
PLAGUE.

WHAT IS
THIS "BLACK
WINTER"??!

ONE OF
YOU GHOULS
ANSWER ME!



IT
IS THE
END.

OF
EVERYTHING.

HELLO,
THOR.

NORRIN, MY
FRIEND, WHAT
HAS HAPPENED
TO YOU?

A TALE FOR
ANOTHER TIME,
PERHAPS.*

WE
MUST ACT
QUICKLY.

*SEE SILVER
SURFER: BLACK.

HOW MUCH
DO YOU KNOW
OF GALACTUS'
BIRTH?

HOW HE
CAME TO BE
WHAT HE IS
NOW?

HE WAS AN EXPLORER OF
THE GALAXY BEFORE
OURS, GALAN OF THE
PLANET TAA.

SOME UNKNOWN
CATAclysm KILLED HIS
UNIVERSE, AND HE WAS
THE SOLE SURVIVOR. HE
WAS TRANSFORMED
INTO--

NO. NOT
UNKNOWN.

THE STAR
PLAGUE.

THE BLIGHT
STORM.

THE ROT
BLIZZARD.

MANY
NAMES...BUT
ONE TRUTH...

IT IS THE
ONE TRUE
END.

THE BLACK
WINTER.





HOW DO WE STOP IT?

WE DO NOT.

THE BLACK WINTER KILLED THE UNIVERSE BEFORE OURS, THOR. AS GALACTUS DEVOURS WORLDS...

...THE WINTER COMES FOR REALITIES.



HOWEVER, GALACTUS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS EVER SURVIVED THE WINTER.

TWICE NOW. ONCE ON TAA, AS A MAN. AND NOW, WEEKS AGO. HE WITNESSED IT AND NARROWLY ESCAPED ITS PATH BEFORE CRASHING TO ASGARD.

HE MUST BE THE ONE TO FACE IT AGAIN.

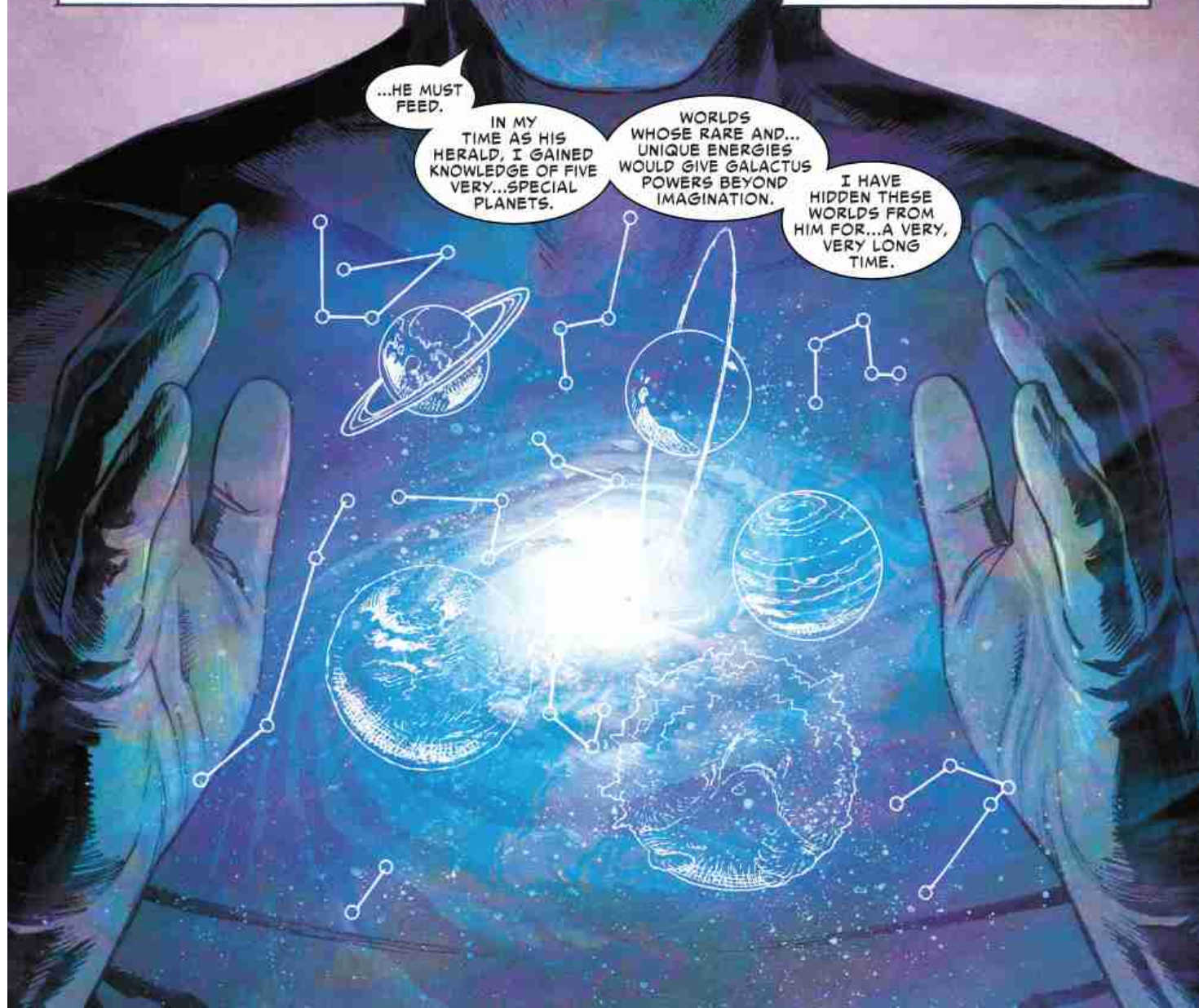
BUT FIRST...

...HE MUST FEED.

IN MY TIME AS HIS HERALD, I GAINED KNOWLEDGE OF FIVE VERY...SPECIAL PLANETS.

WORLDS WHOSE RARE AND... UNIQUE ENERGIES WOULD GIVE GALACTUS POWERS BEYOND IMAGINATION.

I HAVE HIDDEN THESE WORLDS FROM HIM FOR...A VERY, VERY LONG TIME.



UNTIL
NOW.
HE IS
OUR ONLY
CHANCE.



GOD...
GALACTUS
WITH MORE
POWER...



SO...
WHICH
ONE OF US
IS TAKING
HIM?



I AM.
I WILL BE
HIS HERALD
ON THIS
JOURNEY.



AYE.
BUT YOU
WILL NOT GO
ALONE.

LATER...



And so...

...draped in war, flanked
by a dozen heralds of a
broken destroyer and
stained by the ashes
of his kingdom...



...the black reign of
the thunder king...

GALACTUS!

...began.

KNEEL.





I CAN FEEL
YOU IN MY HEAD,
GALACTUS.

AM I TO
ASSUME YOU
KNOW OF THE
PLAN?

OF THE
TRUTH?



I DO,
SURFER.

THAT YOU
COULD SHIELD
THESE THINGS FROM
MY MIND...THAT YOU
YET CONCEAL THE
LOCATIONS OF
THESE PLANETS
FROM ME...

I AM...
IMPRESSED.



KING THOR HAS GRACIOUSLY
AGREED TO ACCOMPANY US
WITH HIS BATTALION TO SEE
THE DENIZENS OF THESE
PLANETS TO SAFETY
BEFORE YOU
FEED.

SHALL WE
BEGIN...



...MASTER?





NO.

NO?

I...I DO NOT UNDERSTAND...

THE FROST.
THE STAR
PLAGUE.

IT IS NOT
A...BEING. EACH
GALAXY OR ENTITY
THAT GAZES INTO
IT PERCEIVES IT
DIFFERENTLY.

JUST AS
I AM PERCEIVED
DIFFERENTLY BY
EACH OF YOU.

THE
BLACK WINTER,
HOWEVER...

WHEN YOU
GAZE INTO
IT, YOU SEE
THE FORM OF
YOUR OWN
TRUE DEATH.

I HAVE
GAZED INTO
IT TWICE
NOW.

"ONCE WHEN I WAS GALAN,
I WATCHED MY UNIVERSE
DIE BEFORE MY EYES..."

"AND I SAW...
NOTHING."

"I HAD NOT YET SEEN
THE COSMIC WONDERS
I KNOW TODAY."

"SO IT APPEARED TO
ME AS A GREAT...
BLACKNESS."

"A VOID. AS I COULD
NOT FATHOM SUCH
THINGS WITH A
MORTAL MIND."

BUT THEN...
I SAW IT
AGAIN.

...AS THE
EMBODIMENT
OF MY ONE...
TRUE DEATH?

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
I SAW THEN,
NORRIN?

WHAT I
SAW...





I DID NOT
HAPPEN UPON
ASGARD.

I DID
NOT COME
HERE FOR
ASYLUM...



IF YOU
ARE TO BE MY
END, THUNDER
GOD...

MNGHH!



...THEN WE
WILL KILL
THE BLACK
WINTER...

...TOGETHER.

AND WHEN
WE ARE
DONE...

...I WOULD
HAVE YOU
CLOSE.



SO THAT
I MAY HAVE
WORDS WITH
THEE.



UNTIL
THEN...

RISE...

...HERALD OF
THUNDER!





THOR 1 RAINBOW BRIDGE VARIANT BY
Kris Anka



THOR 1 VARIANT BY
Stanley "Artgerm" Lau



THOR 1 VARIANT BY
Arthur Adams & Jesus Aburtov



THOR 1 VARIANT BY
Jen Bartel